REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-6, 8-20 and 22-28 are pending. The claims have been amended to clarify the invention and/or to improve form, and claims 7 and 21 have been cancelled by the present Amendment.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the remarks as set forth herein below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-14, 15-18, 20 and 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heo in view of Okura. Claims 5 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heo in view of Okura and further in view of Mori. Claims 7 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heo in view of Okura and further in view of Furuhata et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Amended independent claim 1 includes a combination of features and has been amended to clarify that the method includes reading out a signal recorded on a data recording medium and reproducing the read-out signal, generating a dummy video sync signal when there is only an audio signal and no video signal included in the reproduced signal, and transmitting, to an output device, the dummy video sync signal along with the reproduced signal, the reproduced signal including the audio signal, but no video signal. Further, the dummy video sync signal has a same frequency as a sync signal frequency of a general video signal such that the output device

displays an image corresponding to the dummy video sync signal having the same frequency as the sync signal frequency of the general video signal and outputs the audio signal via a speaker associated with the output device as recited in independent claim 1. Independent claim 15 includes similar features in a varying scope.

These features are supported at least by the non-limiting example shown in Figure 2 and paragraphs [0025] and [0028] of the present specification. For example, Figure 2 illustrates generating a dummy video sync signal (S18) when there is only an audio signal and no video signal included in the reproduced signal (S16), and transmitting, to an output device, the dummy video sync signal along with the reproduced signal (S19), the reproduced signal including the audio signal, but no video signal, wherein the dummy video sync signal has a same frequency as a sync signal frequency of a general video signal such that the output device displays an image corresponding to the dummy video sync signal having the same frequency as the sync signal frequency of the general video signal and outputs the audio signal via a speaker associated with the output device (see, e.g., paragraphs [0025] and [0028]of the present specification).

Heo provides a DVD-Audio for storing digital audio signals sampled at the maximum sampling frequency and quantized in the maximum number of bits with the number of channels limited by the data transfer speed in linear PCM. Its intended purpose is to improve quality of producing sound over that reproduced from the DVD-Video, if audio data are recorded in a DVD-Audio. In order words, Heo is directed to providing a video or audio playing function by separating the DVD-video player or DVD-audio player (column 28, lines 6-14) and thus is not concerned with the problems as identified by the present invention (e.g., when receiving audio signals without any video signal associated with those audio signals, for more than a prescribed

EHC/DAB/KKC/vas

time, the TV connected to the DVD player determines that it abnormally receives external input signals. Based on such a determination, the TV automatically mutes the audio signals outputted through its speakers or is automatically turned off as described in paragraph [0006] of the present specification). Accordingly, Heo fails to teach or suggest the claimed features of generating a dummy signal when there is only an audio signal and no video signal included in the reproduced signal and wherein the dummy video sync signal has a same frequency as a sync signal frequency of a general video signal such that the output device displays an image corresponding to the dummy video sync signal having the same frequency as the sync signal frequency of the general video signal and outputs the audio signal via a speaker associated with the output device.

Okura is directed to a time-base corrector circuit for time-base correction of a video signal, which has a synchronizing signal generating circuit, which outputs an internal synchronizing signal of a prescribed frequency if no video signal is input. Okura has an intended purpose of providing a TBC circuit free from color noises. In summary, Okura is directed to adding or not adding a color burst signal to a video signal. There is no description in Okura about generating a dummy video signal where there is only an audio signal and no video signal and that the dummy video sync signal has a same frequency as a sync signal frequency of a general video signal such that the output device displays an image corresponding to the dummy video sync signal having the same frequency as the sync signal frequency of the general video signal and outputs the audio signal via a speaker associated with the output device. Okura only teaches generating an internal synch signal when there is no video signal (i.e., when the device is in an initializing mode).

Further, combining Okura with Heo would only result in modify the video output signal 318 of Heo because Okura is only directed to video data and one skilled in the art would have no motivation to combine the video teachings in Okura with the audio teachings in Heo, especially because Heo completely separates the video and audio outputs as shown Figure 29.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1 and 15 and each of the claims depending there from are allowable.

EHC/DAB/KKC/vas

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Entry of the present Amendment is requested since it places the application in condition for allowance and/or reduces the issues for appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong, Reg. No. 40,953 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: **MAR 17 2008**

Respectfully submitted,

By _Esther Chong_
Esther H. Chong
Registration No.: 40,953
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

12

EHC/DAB/KKC/vas